

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00580 142309Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 140915Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9130

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, PU, NL, PINS

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRESS COVERAGE OF RECENT PAIGC PRESS
CONFERENCE IN HAGUE

SUMMARY: LARGE CIRCULATION PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPER HAS RUN
ARTICLES ATTACKING PAIGC DELEGATION NOW TOURING NORTHERN
EUROPE. ARTICLES, WHICH MAY PRESAGE MORE AGGRESSIVE GOP
RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE LIBERATION GROUP PROPAGANDA EFFORTS,
CLAIM PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY PAIGC IN THE HAGUE RECENTLY
BACKFIRED TO PORTUGAL'S BENEFIT AS FRIENDLY CORRESPONDENTS
CAUGHT PAIGC SPOKESMEN IN CONTRADICTIONS. WE WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN KNOWING ACCURACY OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE
OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND OF OTHER PAIGC PROPAGANDA
EFFORTS IN NORTHERN EUROPE. END SUMMARY

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1. LISBON GOVERNMENT-LINING DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS

RAN FRONT PAGE STORIES FEBRUARY 12 AND 13 (AND OTHER PAPERS AND TELEVISION HAVE PICKED UP THEME) ON PAIGC PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN THE HAGUE SOON AFTER PAIGC DELEGATION MET WITH DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT OBTAIN DUTCH DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO GO ON TO SCANDINAVIA.

2. ARTICLES MAKE PITCH THAT CONFERENCE, FAR FROM RESULTING IN EXPECTED PROPAGANDA COUP FOR PAIGC, TURNED OUT TO BE RESOUNDING PROPAGANDA VICTORY FOR PORTUGAL. IN SUPPORT THIS THESE ARTICLES CITE LOW ATTENDANCE BY DUTCH PRESS (50 EXPECTED, 9 CAME), AS WELL AS INABILITY PAIGC TO CONVINCE ASSEMBLED FRIENDLY DUTCH AND NORWEGIAN CORRESPONDENTS THAT ITS CLAIMS TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF GUINEA-BISSAU ARE VALID. TWO PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS, PROBABLY SENT FROM LISBON, ALSO PRESENT.

3. ARTICLES CLAIM THAT "PROFUSELY PERSPIRING" PAIGC SPOKESMAN, TRAPPED IN CONTRADICTIONS AND LIES BY SHARP QUESTIONING OF JOURNALISTS, COULD NOT EVEN SHOW ON MAP TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY PAIGC, LOCATION PAIGC CAPITAL, NOR NAME MORE THAN 6 VILLAGES UNDER ITS CONTROL. IN SHORT, PAIGC PORTRAYED IN ACCOUNTS AS INEFFECTUAL FOOLS CAUGHT IN WEB OWN LIES BY CRITICAL, BUT NOT UNSYMPATHETIC REPORTERS.

4. COMMENT: WE OF COURSE UNABLE ASSESS ACCURACY OF THE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS EVENT AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY THE HAGUE'S COMMENTS. IN ANY EVENT, ARTICLES GIVE IDEA OF HOW PORTUGUESE PRESS IS PORTRAYING PAIGC SPOKESMAN AND PROPAGANDA EFFORTS. WE MAY IN FUTURE SEE MORE AGGRESSIVE PORTUGUESE MEDIA RESPONSE TO PAIGC PROPAGANDA EFFORTS IN NORTHERN EUROPE. PORTUGUESE MAY SEND CORRESPONDENTS TO FUTURE PAIGC PRESS CONFERENCES TO DEBATE OR ENGAGE PAIGC IN A RUNNING PROPAGANDA BATTLE. GIVEN PAIGC REPS PLANS CONTINUE SWING THROUGH SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES ON EFFECTIVENESS PAIGC PROPAGANDA EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT ONGOING DEBATE OVER POSSIBILITY NORDIC RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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